



PRAYER

The Sacramentary for Liturgies with Children has beautiful prayers, prefaces and eucharistic prayers. From time to time, use these with the children for prayer. Use the simple responses with them at prayer: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. Holy, holy. Christ has died. Amen.

OTHER RESOURCES

Videos From VIDEOS WITH VALUES: "The Mass For Young Children"; "Beginners Bible"; "Gospel With a Smile"; "Stations of the Cross for Children"

1(800) 233-4629

Books From LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS: "Sunday Morning"; "Blessings and Prayers"; "Bible Stories for the 40 Days"

1(800) 933-1800



Oblate Media and
Communication
Corporation

"SUNDAY MORNING"

Guide



How does a parent, a friend, or a teacher begin to talk with a young child about what the church does on Sunday Morning? One way is to practice the wonderful words that the child can learn: "Alleluia" and "Amen" and "Holy" and the names of the gospel writers.

Another way is to begin with simple, direct sentences that say what the actions of the church are: "We meet on the first day of the week," and "We stand to hear the good news of Jesus." (from the book, SUNDAY MORNING)

Think, for a moment, as a child surrounded by big people on Sunday morning. Think of the simplest questions: Why do we come here on Sunday? What do all these sounds and sights mean? Why do we use words here that we almost never use other places? Who are all these people we speak of: Noah, Moses, Jesus? Why all this singing?

What SUNDAY MORNING attempts to do is to center the child's attention on some of the most basic themes and questions, words and characters. What the video does, through color and image, music and words is surround the child with a sense of Sunday and how central it is to our life together as Christians.

BEFORE VIEWING

1. FOR THE PARENT/TEACHER: View the video (twice if possible) to grasp what it says to you. Do I have a sense of Sunday as a day of "obligation?" Is that what I want for my children? What words best describe for me a more traditional understanding of Sunday? Write a



few down. Think of specific Sunday celebrations which had a particularly powerful impact on you. What made these particular events powerful.

2. FOR THE CHILDREN: Ask them to draw a picture of a great Sunday morning they can remember. Put the picture up so children can see their work. Don't diminish things that are clearly religious. What kinds of things do we see in more than one picture? Where do we go on Sundays? Who goes with us?

Send a note home with the children that says something like this:

We're learning about Sunday and I'd like your help. Please spend a little time with your child talking about what you do Sunday mornings. Help your child to draw pictures of these Sunday morning things. They don't have to be "religious" things. On a separate sheet write down the words that describe "Sunday things or activities."

Give the children a week to get this done. You might want to give parents a call so that it's not forgotten. When the projects are done, display the work and talk about it together.

VIEW THE VIDEO WITH THE CHILDREN

Be sure the equipment is in place and in good running order. Be sure the volume is set properly of the children by being startled or calling out — "turn it up." Also be sure the TV is positioned so that glare on the screen is minimized.

Tell the children that they will be viewing a program about a very special day. Have them listen for what day it is and why is this day special?

AFTER VIEWING

(Kindergarteners and first graders are just beginning to think about this day which has probably been a mystery for them. Don't look for more than one word response.)

1. Ask what day the video was about. Why would we watch a video about Sunday? What do we do on Sunday? Whom do we do it with? Whom do we see on Sunday?
2. What did you notice about the people in the video? What were they doing? How would you describe their faces (happy, sad?)
3. What kinds of stories did we hear about? Can you remember any names from the stories (Noah, Moses, David, Jesus) Can anyone remember a story from last Sunday at church? Bring in a story from a recent Sunday and read it from the Childrens lectionary.
4. Ask a priest from the parish to come in and talk about some of the things we use to celebrate Sunday morning: hymnal (What's your favorite church song? If you're comfortable singing, see if the kids will sing a Sunday song — even a simple AMEN.), "Holy Books" (lectionary, sacramentary), a cup, a patten or basket, altar bread, wine, a candle, vestments. If there is a book or list or photo album all the people in the parish, show that.
5. Teach the children about our words: ALLELUIA (praise God) and when it's used; Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again; AMEN.
6. What are some good things to do after Church on Sunday morning?